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RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

PALESTINE MISSION.

The following letter was addressed to a gentleman in Charleston, S. C. dated "Upper Egypt, floating down the Nile, March 18, 1823."

For more than two months I have been travelling in Egypt, have stood on the top of the highest pyramid, entered the splendid tombs of the kings, and visited nearly all the ruins of the ancient Egyptian temples. I am now returning from Thebes to Cairo. In my journey, Mr. Fisk, Mr. Wolff (the Jewish missionary to Jerusalem) and myself, have distributed among the Coptic Christians about 300 copies of the Holy Scriptures, or parts of them, and about 2000 tracts. This we have done with some fear and much caution. Many complaints have been carried to the Pasha against us, and we feel that our situation is peculiarly critical. We go unarmed and without any one to defend us, except Him, who has said, "Lo I am with you alway, even to the end of the world."

But whatever may happen, I rejoice that I am here. Whatever I may have done heretofore in the cause of Christ, I consider as nothing in comparison with what God has permitted me to do this winter for the churches in Egypt. To Him alone be all the glory. They are poor, degraded, benighted, and grievously oppressed by the strong hand of Mahomedan power. I have visited the Patriarch, dined with several of the Bishops, and seen a great number of their priests. I dined with one of the bishops in a house, which was as mean as any negro hut I ever saw in Carolina. The first room of his house which I entered was used as a stable for asses, the second for buffaloes, and his own apartments were very little superior to the stables. Almost every thing in Egypt looks like ruin and wretchedness. The prophecy of Isaiah with regard to this land has been literally fulfilled. I hope Christians in America will remember in their prayers the poor Copts.

It is my intention to go from Cairo with a caravan through the desert to Jerusalem. But we have just heard that the Turks at Constantinople have made a general massacre of the Franks. If this be true, it will not be prudent for us to remain anywhere in the Ottoman dominions. The Lord will, I trust, direct our steps. Dear sir, I owe you ten thousand thanks for your goodness and benevolence, which have been truly great towards me. I long to hear from you, as I have not had any letter from you since last May, when I was at Paris. Do write often, and believe me your truly affectionate friend and servant,

J. KING.

Extract of a Letter from Mrs. Goodell, wife of Rev. Wm. Goodell, to a lady in Boston, dated Malta, March 28. 1823.

"Dear Mrs. —, Far from your pleasant city, and the dear circle of friends I have left in America, I sit down to write one, whose kindness has added much to my happiness, and who will ever be remembered with the liveliest interest. My situa-

tion is in the upper apartment of a house, sufficiently large for the three families, printing press, and chapel. From the front door to my room there are 60 stone steps, from the kitchen 72; three rooms are occupied by myself and best friend, where we study, write, converse, and are quite happy. From our windows, and especially from the terrace above us, we have a fine view of the Mediterranean, and of vessels, as they approach these shores; our eyes have more than once beamed gladness at the belief, that we saw an American flag; yet no one has in reality proved to be such. We wait with eagerness every breeze, which speeds the sail of the distant ship, and hope and anticipate, till again we are disappointed. You will not, however, infer, that we are in an agony of impatience to hear from home, as we could hardly expect to be refreshed with letters so soon. For our safe arrival at this island of Malta, we have much reason for thankfulness. God has indeed been gracious in preserving our health and providing us so good a home, and friends, who are not only refined and hospitable, but some of them truly pious. We have a congregation of more than a hundred persons on the Sabbath, principally English, and a Sabbath school of more than 50, composed of English, Greek, Maltese, and one little Jewess, who is instructed in English during the week by Mrs. Temple. There is a charity school in Malta for the poor Maltese children, supported by the English and Maltese. At this school the children are instructed in Italian after the Lancasterian system. In the boys' apartment the school flourishes, in the girls' there is a great laxness on the part of the instructress; so much that a committee of ladies has been appointed, whose duty it is alternately to visit the school. Mrs. Temple is on the committee, and very faithful in discharging her office. At the last meeting of the Society, the Bishop made a donation of 100 scudes, or 40 dollars.

"There has recently been organized a Poor Society here for the relief of the indigent, the blind, and the lame. Monday I took an excursion with Mrs. Temple and two other ladies, to see some of the pensioners. We visited a number of hovels, dark and dismal as the tomb. The first object which most arrested my attention, was a poor blind woman, I should think 70 or 80 years old. She was absent when we knocked, two or three doors distant, where they are so kind as to afford her a seat, and sometimes give her a little part of their coffee, which to a benevolent heart must be the greatest pleasure, even if himself were in consequence shortened. We waited her return, which was only a moment or two, when she entered, led by a decent looking young man, who opened to us her door, and disclosed the wretchedness within. She lives alone in a room not more than six feet square; without windows and without furniture, excepting an old straw couch, covered with rags, and a few stone vessels, upon one of which lay a bit of cabbage and some kind of vegetable. She receives from the Society a scude a month. Yet probably many a day she languishes for want of food. I wanted to inquire of her, if she knew any thing of the compassionate Saviour, but could not, as I was ignorant of her language. The Maltese language is a sort of corrupt Arabic. Leaving this place full of sad reflections we hastened to another, where we had to descend a number of steps by the help of a light. The family consisted of a widow with two small children. Their hovel was apparently underground, and so dark during the day, as to oblige them to use a lamp. The mother we found sitting upon the stairs spinning cotton with a curious little wheel. Her son goes out in the morning, and perhaps earns a penny in the course of the day, and rests his head at night, not in the hovel, for there is not sufficient room; but in a church, or upon the stones of the

street. Indeed it is very common here for the poorer classes to sleep in their boats, in the streets, and in the churches, at all seasons of the year. At another house was a widow with three little children. Her room adjoins a horse stable, and by taking care of a horse, she is enabled to pay for it. Here was neither bed, chair, or any kind of furniture. The state of the poor in Malta is very deplorable. Visiting their abodes, the pious heart is overwhelmed with compassion. We never think of walking the streets here without being assailed by beggars more dirty and ragged than you can possibly conceive. But O, could they be cleansed in the blood of the Lamb, they would hereafter shine as stars of the firmament.

"The mission family are all in excellent health, and desire an affectionate remembrance to all Boston friends. We are all engaged in studying Italian, Mr. Temple excepted, who is now pursuing the Greek. Affectionately yours,

ABIGAIL P. GOODELL."

SYRIAN CHURCH.

[When Dr. Buchanan visited this people about fifteen years ago, he found primitive simplicity, and a firmness which had withstood the continued assaults of popery. But he found a superstitious and ignorant priesthood, and the form of godliness with very little of its power. He laid their case before the English church; missionaries have been sent, and a college commenced among them. The following short extract is from the diary of a military officer, who spent a fortnight among that people in 1821, and visited most of the villages, churches, and Syrian priests.—*Ch. Mirror.*]

"Improvements in the Syrian Church.

"The following are the four main improvements which have been effected with general approbation; or at least without any dislike having been openly manifested:

- "1. The marriage of the Clergy.
- "2. The removal of all Images from the Churches.
- "3. The reading a portion of the Scriptures every Sunday, in the Malayalam.
- "4. The opening of schools, attached to most of the Churches.

"These reforms may be safely considered as general in spirit; although, in fact, from the remoteness of some of the Churches, and the short space of time which has elapsed since the reforms commenced, they cannot be yet said to be in universal operation; in a very few more months, with God's blessing, I have no doubt they will be entirely so.

"Among partial amendments may be reckoned, a decreasing estimation, in the eyes of the principal clergy, of pomp and ceremony—a desire, openly manifested, to study the Scriptures—an humble acknowledgement of the dreadful state of ignorance in which they are plunged—gratitude toward those who are assisting in rescuing them from it—and a greater regard to cleanliness and decency of apparel.

"Since all this has been effected, through the Divine permission, in the short space of four years, (when Mr. Bailey, the first Missionary, settled among them,) can we doubt, I would say it with humble reverence, but that it seems to be our God's good pleasure, that this once flourishing Church should be restored—sooner, possibly, than many may be aware of?

"One pleasing feature in the character of the Syrians, I have as yet neglected to bring forward—I mean the great reverence which they show towards their aged parents and relatives. Even the Malpan could never be prevailed on to sit in his

uncle's presence ; and I witnessed a similar feeling, in several other instances.

Testimony to Dr. Buchanan.

In short, though they are in a low state of ignorance, and show little sense of morality and religion, they have sufficient redeeming qualities, to excite a lively interest in all who have seen and known them. I myself went among them, prejudiced both against them, and against what a great and good man had previously written concerning them. With Dr. Buchanan's account of them in my hand, I went where he went, and sometimes went where he went not ; and I seize with pleasure this opportunity of offering the testimony of an individual, who has been an eye-witness to most of what has been asserted on this head by the first friend, and now beloved benefactor of the neglected Syrians.

AFRICA.

Bible and Missionary Societies are extending a powerful moral influence in South Africa. The anticipation may be indulged, that with the blessing of Heaven, the largest portion of that country will speedily enjoy the blessed privileges of Christianity. The western parts of the continent are also greatly favoured with the means of moral improvement ; and the ancient oracle seems to be receiving its consummation—"Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God." He who saw the affliction of his people in Egypt, and who came down to deliver them, will, ere long, plead the cause of that degraded and insulted nation. Let their oppressors tremble, who have filled their coffers with the price of Africa's blood ; for "the Redeemer of the oppressed is strong ; the Lord of Hosts is his name."—C. Watchman.

INDIA.

MISERIES OF PILGRIMS.

Dooragapore, May, 1822. This month a poor man has made his way to us, in very great distress. He set off last year to visit Juggernaut—lost his wife upon the way—spent every piece of his money—not a bit of cloth scarcely to cover him ; and has two infant children, one of which the poor woman was delivered of upon the road, which for want of suitable accommodation and through the fatigue of the journey, caused her death. The poor man is grievously emaciated, and the babes almost lost for want of care and food. The younger child has been getting milk every day since its arrival, and is now somewhat revived, but the man is still very weak.

Another person, in almost a dying condition, came as far as our place, having started for Gunga Saugor a few months since, but being taken ill by the way, and as usual in these cases, quite abandoned by his fellow travellers, and left to perish without succour. When he reached this, he was quite unable to stand or walk, totally destitute of all money and clothing. He lived for a few days in our chapel by the roadside, but having removed him to a small room nearer our own house, he died about the middle of the next day. So miserable is the service of the devil, and so helpless is the case of poor wretched idolaters—deluded and enslaved, and rendered as sheep always destined to the slaughter. I mention the above instances, not because they are rare, but because they chanced to fall under my notice. Multitudes, if sought after, might be found in similar circumstances every day, and in almost every direction. The thousands who die from these wearisome journeys every year, unheeded and unpitied by all, but by him who watches the falling of sparrows, and who numbers the hairs of our heads, none can estimate. Lord ! hasten his blessed dominion, who "delivers the needy when he crieth ; the poor also, and him that hath no helper." The more we see of the cruelty of superstition, the more heart-rending it appears. Much has been published, and much said, upon this subject, and those who look with comparative indifference upon this, as well as other matters connected with the souls of men, may be disposed to affirm that more has been reported respecting these matters than is necessary, and that much should be abated, from considering these statements as the effect of heated zeal in those who describe them. But the fact is, that a person has never yet spoken or written, who has been able to

tell, in any proportion, the miseries which this horrid and multifarious system of idolatry brings in its train.

From the (Carlisle) Religious Miscellany.

INDIAN YOUTHS.

On the evening of the 4th inst. five Indian youths, under the care of Rev. Mr. Bascom, arrived in this place, and put up for the night. We have been informed that three of them are from the Choctaw, & 2 from the Cherokee nations ; all of whom have, for some time previous to leaving their country, been under the care of the missionaries, stationed in their respective nations, (Brainerd and Elliot.) They are now on their way to the Heathen School at Cornwall, Conn. to receive an education, and then return to their benighted kindred, qualified to instruct them in the principles of the gospel.—Mr. Bascom, and three of the Indians, attended a social prayer meeting, which is wont to convene on every Friday evening. The Indians, were new guests to the worshippers. Most of them had seen but few of their species, and those were generally, either dexterously handling their bows and arrows, or at some other favourite employment. But the appearance of these indicated something better. In them this little band of christians might see some tokens of mercy,—the answer of prayer. Their behaviour told plainly that this was not the first meeting of the kind they had ever been at.—Mr. B., before closing the meeting, urged those present to bear the cases of these Indians on their hearts at the throne of grace, that God would sanctify them, and open their minds to receive the truths of the gospel, and return to their people prepared for usefulness in the church of Christ.—After the exercises were over, it was requested that one of them would sing a hymn in his native language ; upon which he sung two verses of the one beginning—

"Alas ! and did my Saviour bleed," &c.

They pursued their journey early on the morning of the 5th.

REVIVALS OF RELIGION.

In Chatham, Con., Mr. Talcot's Society, there is a Revival at the present time. 25 have recently been propounded to the church.—There is unusual attention to religion on Martha's Vineyard, particularly at Edgartown.—The Revival continues at Kennebunk port, Me, and between 35 and 40 are hopeful subjects of it, principally among the youth.—In Castine, Me., the Revival, which commenced in January, and was gradual in its progress, at first, has become powerful.—In Northampton, N. H. the Revival which continues, has been powerful. 25 or 30 persons obtained hope in one week. It has extended from Northampton to Hampton and a few scholars in the Academy are subjects of it. This Revival was extended from one town to the other by the use of means similar to those used in the neighbourhood of Boston and New Haven so successfully.—There is a Revival in the northern part of New Hampshire, where the Rev. Jonathan L. Hale is labouring as a Missionary.—In Colebrook are about twenty subjects, and there are reasons to believe it is extending to the towns in the vicinity, by the use of those means which are usually blessed in extended Revivals.—In Pittsford, Orville, and Middlebury, Vt. Revivals have recently commenced. There are 10 or 15 hopeful converts in each town. As this is a part of the State, which has been greatly favored with Revivals, strong hopes are cherished, that not only these towns but others in the vicinity, and the College, are to be soon again blessed with an out-pouring of the Spirit.—In Southampton, Mass. 200 ; in Norwich, 80 ; in Easthampton, 100 ; in Montgomery, 40 ; in Northampton between 30 and 40 ; Chesterfield, 30, are numbered as hopeful subjects of grace, and it is stated that these Revivals have not subsided.—In Westfield, Hadley, and Amherst, there have also been revivals.

In Charlestown, Newburyport, Randolph, South Bridgewater, Milton, Wareham, Mass. there are Revivals at this time.—In Dorchester, Braintree, North Bridgewater, there are favorable indications. It is confidently believed that the Revival which commenced in Boston is to be extended by the usual means to many towns in the vicinity.

In Danvers, Mass. North Parish, a revival of lim-

ited extent commenced with the death of a beneficiary of the American Education Society. The corpse was removed from Phillips Academy to Danvers, but before it was taken away an address was made to the companions of the deceased which awakened the attention of several. This is the third or fourth instance in which the death of a youth within a few years has been the means blessed of God for Promoting a Revival in a literary institution.

In Lexington, Ky. and Columbia, Tennessee, are Revivals.—In 98 congregations connected with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church there have been Revivals during the last year.

The Revival in BOSTON still makes a steady progress. The last united inquiring meeting was more full and interesting than any for the last six weeks.—*Bos. Recorder.*

AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

The Prudential Committee, in the last Herald have laid before the publick a representation of the wants of the institution, and of the expected demands upon its Treasury. Since the first of September last, it has been found necessary to pay from the Treasury nearly \$10,000 more than has been received in that time—the amount received during the last three months is less by \$5,800 than the amount received during a similar period, ending with June 17, 1822. The enlargement of the Sandwich Island and Palestine Missions, creates increased expenditures—and a mission must be undertaken to South America ;—the present is the favorable moment for ascertaining what may be done there, and for attempting to christianize that vast region of moral darkness.—Ministers and private Christians are earnestly called upon to consider whether the cause does not demand special efforts—whether they have done all that the Saviour has a right to expect from them—and if they have contributed themselves to the extent of their power, whether they have done what they could to bring others to the same devoted standard of duty.

The address concludes with a solemn inquiry submitted to the mature reflection of the christian community ; "What is to be done, that the American churches may exert all that influence upon the heathen world which may be expected of them, when their number, their strength, their peculiar privileges, and the magnitude of the cause are considered?" A monstrous question ! Let every Christian weigh it well.

Progress of Education.—Columbian College, D. C., has 60 students, one half of which are pious. The institution at Hamilton, N. Y., has about 40 students, who are all pious.—The Waterville College in Maine, has fifty students, about one half of whom are pious. These seminaries of learning are all under the influence of evangelical Baptists, and have all come into existence within five years, a striking and delightful proof of the progress of this zealous and excellent denomination of Christians.

The proposed fund of \$10,000 at Dartmouth College, for the benefit of indigent students, has been raised in Hanover and a few towns in the vicinity, by private subscription, to \$5,000, and confident hopes are indulged that it will be filled up.—The Western Education Society, N. Y. which has recently become auxiliary to the Presbyterian Education Society, is building a boarding house near Hamilton College, at which the members of the Society may pay their annual subscriptions in produce. This plan of paying in produce has been adopted the year past, and in this way 20 indigent students have been boarded gratuitously. When their new building is finished, it is expected that the Society will be able to afford the same subsistence to 40 indigent students.

The new fund of \$30,000 in Amherst Collegiate Institution, for which strenuous exertions have recently been made, is filled up. But while the Institution is prospered in its pecuniary concerns, it is called to mourn the death of its President. Surely Christians will pour out their hearts in earnest supplication, that the benevolent Institution, till now in all respects, so signally favoured of Heaven in which more than 80 out of 100 students, are hopefully pious, may be guided to a wise choice of a successor of its lamented President.

There are two hundred pious students in our Academies, six hundred in our Colleges, and three hundred in our Theological Seminaries. This is a greater number of pious young men than were educated for the ministry in thirty years previous to 1810. The Lord will thrust labourers into the harvest.—*Boston Recorder.*

Letter to the editor of the Star, dated Otter Bridge, Bedford county, Va. June 19th, 1823.

Rev. Sir,

I have observed in your paper, frequent invitations to correspondents and others, for any sketches, or communications, which might contribute to the general fund of information in science and religion, thereby affording a repast to all your readers, and more especially, warming and cheering the hearts of the humble followers of the meek and compassionate Jesus, whose happiness it is to witness the signs of the times in which we live. Permit me, then, to give you a succinct view of the progress of rich and sovereign grace in the revival of religion which commenced near two years ago within the district of the Strawberry Association, and of which you have heretofore, if I mistake not, taken some notice in your publication. This work commenced in August, 1821, at a section meeting of the Baptists in Bedford county, at which time there were about twelve apparently slain by the sword of the Spirit, and with bitter weeping and anguish of soul, earnestly soliciting, that the ministers present should pray for them. This occurrence, my dear sir, was animating to old Christians, and especially the labouring servants of Christ, who had been toiling through a tedious night, and "taken nothing."

Two very young men, of the above number, after wading a considerable time in the mire of deep distress, have been ushered into the great harvest field of souls, and are now with much acceptance and indefatigable perseverance, lifting up their voices, and in imitation of their divine Master, commanding all men every where to repent. I am not aware that I should err, in saying, that all, who on that occasion exhibited evidence of conviction, have become the hopeful subjects of renovating grace.—From this meeting the fire that had descended was carried into the bounds of the adjacent churches and neighbourhood, and for a time seemed confined almost exclusively to the county of Bedford, until very considerable accessions were made to a number of the Baptist churches, and likewise some to other denominations: at length, however, moving majestically, and the cedars of Lebanon bowing before Him who governs the helm, it reached the adjacent county of Franklin, a considerable portion of which, had heretofore been a mere moral wilderness, where many of the hardy sons of dissipation and pleasure were made to stand aghast, look wild, and at length yield to the mild sceptre of Immanuel. One church, particularly, in this county, has shared largely in this heavenly visitation. Bethel has received the drops in copious showers, having 114 added in the course of a very few months. Not long since, I witnessed the returns to the spring session of this association, by which I was enabled to ascertain that 400 or a little upwards had been added since the commencement of the late work, and I take great pleasure in announcing that there are ten added to the strength of the ministry in this district nearly all of whom are the fruits of this revival, and the most of them young men of promising gifts, and I believe I may add, sensible, that they "have not already attained," or are already perfect, but are thirsting after more of that wisdom, which "is first pure, then peaceable," &c. The work is still going on, more or less, in some parts of this district. Shall we not "pray without ceasing," "Thy kingdom come," "and in every thing give thanks?"

ANNIVERSARY.

The New-Hampshire Baptist Domestic Mission Society held its fourth anniversary in Bow, at the Rev. Mr. Veazey's Meeting-house. Rev. George Keely of Haverhill, (Mass.) preached the introductory Sermon from John iv. 38. It was appropriate and highly interesting. The Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports were then read, accepted and voted to be printed. The following officers were chosen for the ensuing year. Rev. Otis Robin-

son, President. Rev. Ferdinand Ellis, V. President. Rev. C. O. Kimball, Cor. Secretary. Rev. Henry Veazey, Rec. Secretary. Deac. Wm. Cate, Treasurer.—*N. H. Rep.*

A friend in Powelton, Georgia, writes that "The Lord has begun a good work in Countyline and in Columbian county. To each of the two churches in Damascus and Sharon about 20 or 30 have been added."—*Col. Star.*

The House of Representatives of the State of N. Hampshire has passed a resolve appropriating \$1,000 to be expended for the support of pupils at the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, at Hartford.

The receipts of the Essex (Mass.) Auxiliary Education Society during the last year, amounted to \$380.05.

The number of communicants in the Methodist Churches, connected with the New-England Conference, is about 21,000.

The annual commencement of Dickinson College, Carlisle, (Penn.) was held on the 25th ult. when nineteen students were admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Arts. "It is worthy of remark that all the graduates, except two, are professors of religion."—*Rel. Intelligencer.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

From the London Baptist Magazine.

ON PRAYER.

It has been said that prayer is the offering up of our desires to God. This definition is not sufficiently comprehensive; our desires must be offered up according to the rule he has given us, or they cannot be acceptable to him. Few things have a closer connexion with our present happiness, or with our future felicity, than prayer to God: we should therefore endeavour to form the most correct view of its nature. Jesus Christ spake a parable to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint: that is, that they should maintain a constant spirit of humble dependance on him—of desire of his favour—and of expectation of the good he has promised to them that seek him. This would be complying with the spirit of the precepts, *Pray without ceasing—In every thing by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.* The sacred writers use terms expressive of the ardour and earnestness of devotional minds; as—*lifting up the soul to God—pouring out the heart before him—crying to him with the voice—asking, seeking, and knocking—wrestling with God—looking to him—and stirring up the soul to take hold of him, with many others of the like kind;* all which convey the idea of great ardour of spirit, and stand directly opposed to dull formality and cold indifference—feelings scarcely to be tolerated in any thing, but in prayer to God, highly criminal.

They who crave the assistance of their fellow mortals have always a plea by which to urge their requests; the loss of a leg or an arm; their losses in trade or at sea; their pinching hunger, or their pressing difficulties; and by these they hope to obtain the relief which they seek. Thus it is with those who rightly call upon God; they have a special message at his throne. The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. They who, having been the vilest transgressors, yet strive to enter in at the strait gate, and wrestle in prayer, and are in earnest about their souls, determined, at all events to find admission into that holy place, will surely succeed; while the supine, the dilatory, and the luke warm, will fall short of that felicity. The object of prayer is the one true and living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; the three divine Persons in the Deity. In the scriptures they are addressed jointly—*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with you.* Sometimes the Father and Son only are mentioned; *Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.* The method used by christians in general, and which is quite in union with the economy of redemption by Christ, is to ad-

dress the Father, through the mediation of the Son, by the assistance of the Holy Spirit. Through him, that is, Christ, we both, Jews and Gentiles, have access by one Spirit unto the Father. He who thus prays, honours Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit as he does the Father; yet, as the divine persons are separately addressed in the sacred volume, we may pray to each of them without being justly chargeable with idolatry. The manner of the divine existence is perhaps the most mysterious doctrine of revelation; and it becomes us not to attempt to explore infinity, or by searching to find out God; but to contemplate his adorable majesty with modesty, humility, and reverence. The comprehension of unity and plurality in the divine essence infinitely exceeds our powers.

In our approaches to God, we should recollect that he never hears us for our much speaking. We may not at all times be able to express what we feel, but we should be careful not to express more than we feel. *Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thy heart be hasty to utter any thing before God; for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth; therefore let thy words be few.* Long prayers are hardly ever so acceptable as short ones; if the language made use of is simple, clear, and comprehensive, the shorter the better.

Prayer is the offering up of our desires to God. Prayer without desire, is like an altar without a sacrifice; *Lord, said David, thou hast heard the desire of the humble, thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt incline thine ear to hear.*

The Pharisee went up into the temple to pray, but he stood by himself, at a distance from others, as though he were afraid he should be polluted by them. He affected to give glory to God, but what he said was a vain boast of self-righteousness. The publican, standing afar off, overwhelmed with shame and self-abhorrence at the recollection of his offences against God, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, and said, *God be merciful to me a sinner.* In these two characters we see the vast difference both of views and of feelings which exist among those who profess to call upon God, and by them we are taught the necessity of humility before him, and that our chief errand, when we draw nigh unto him, should be to present our ardent desire for spiritual and eternal blessings. *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.* Prayer is one of the means which keeps alive the souls of christians; it strengthens and inflames those sparks of heavenly fire which God has placed in their bosoms, and which frequently appear ready to expire. It has an influence on their temper and conduct, and is essential to their peace. It increases in them the fruits of the Spirit, and reminds them of their subjection to the Father of mercies. As to converse with the world has a tendency to make them worldly; so to converse with God tends to make them holy. Moses thus derived a glory which shone upon his countenance, and thus christians obtain views of the glory of God, as it shines in his Son, and are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

THE CHRISTIAN SECRETARY.

HARTFORD, JULY 19, 1823.

The Rev. Elisha B. Cook, Pastor of the Presbyterian church in Manchester, (formerly Orford) was drowned on Friday the 11th inst. in crossing a brook, while returning from a neighbour's, whom he had been assisting in gathering his hay. This must be one of the most afflictive strokes that could be laid on the Society; for he was beloved, and respected as a good pastor should be by the people of his charge. We have not yet heard more particulars of this very melancholy occurrence.—*Mirror.*

DIED,

At East Hartford, Gen. Shubael Griswold, aged 61.

At Wethersfield, Mr. James Hurlbut 2d, aged 30.

At East-Haven, on the 7th inst. widow — Bishop, aged 93; she was the oldest person in that town, and had exhibited the christian character from her youth.

At Exeter, New-Hampshire, Nathaniel Peabody, member of the old revolutionary Congress, aged 82.

At Woodstock, Vt. on the 19th June, Col. Oliver Williams, aged 65, for forty years town clerk of that town.

At Southington, Mr. John Porter, aged 47.

THE CHRISTIAN SECRETARY.

From the Christian Spectator.

THE VOICE OF THE SPIRIT.

The heart of man in the hour of its pride,
Mild Nature, the mother, address;
“On the flower of the vale, where fountains glide—
On the brow of the forest...the curl of the tide,
And the cliff of the mountain, where tempests hide,
See the hand of God impress.”

Slow Reason arose, with her finite chain,
And her lamp as the moon beam clear,
“That being who bridles the storm-stricken main,
And gems the skies with their countless train,
Is a Being for man to fear.”

Pure inspiration's ray sublime,
Like the Sun from chaos broke;
“Remember him now, in the day of thy prime,
Thy breath is a vapour—a span thy time,
And thy glory a wreath of smoke.”

Death hurl'd his arrow from the cloud
Where pestilence curtain'd his way,
On the throne of the heart its idol bowed,
The bloom of its beauty was pale in the shroud,
And its strength the spoiler's prey.

A voice was heard:—’twas the voice of the dead!
It was hoarse from the hollow grave—
“Oh! heed the things of thy peace, it said,
Ere the worm is thy brother, and dust thy bed,
In the hour when none can save.”

Remorse uplifted a serpent scourge,
And Conscience asserted her sway,
But the world, and the host of her vanities urge,
And buoy'd on the crest of their dancing surge,
That rebel heart was gay.

Heaven mourn'd and the harps of her blest ones
sigh'd,
(Thus the rose sheds the dew drop tear,)
The Son of the Highest for man hath died,
Yet still he exults in his guilt and his pride,
Ah! what shall arrest his career?

There was joy in Heaven!—O'er the angels it shone,
A smile from Jehovah glowed,
The ‘still small voice’ from the awful throne,
Had breath'd on that obdurate heart of stone,
And the rock like a river flow'd. H.

SUMMARY.

The mail was robbed on the morning of the 3rd inst. on its passage from Philadelphia to Baltimore, a few miles from the latter place. Resistance was made by the guard, and one or more of the robbers were wounded. Notwithstanding they obtained possession of the mail, as well as the person of the guard, who however soon escaped, and with the assistance which offered, three of the robbers were soon taken, and are now awaiting their trial before a U. S. Court to convene at Baltimore.

Effects of Lightning—The papers are filled with accounts of houses and men being struck with lightning, and so they have been a hundred years, and yet not one house in an hundred has a lightning rod.

FIRE.—On Thursday morning of last week, between 2 and 3 o'clock, the roof of the jail at Bridgeton, Cumberland county, N. J. was discovered to be on fire. An alarm was given, and the citizens promptly assembled for the purpose of extinguishing it. Among them was a number of the ladies of the place, who were observed to be actively engaged for several hours in handing buckets. Such was the activity of the firemen, that although, when the fire was first discovered, the whole roof was in a blaze, it was prevented from extending below the garret floor.

LONDON, June 4.

A day more barren in interest than this has seldom occurred, not a single foreign arrival has been announced at the Post Office. A trifling decline has taken place in the Rentes, they are quoted at \$8, 85.

We have seen some letters from the French Capital, which came to hand by three expresses, and they betray strong symptoms of interest and anxiety for the result of the operations against Gen. Mina.

Moncey's demand of reinforcements has equally a bad influence in Paris, and although French vanity will not suffer them to confess the fears they entertain, it is easy to perceive they are disappointed in the result of the war up to the present time. A great deal has latterly been said on the subject of negotiations, with the addition that the Spanish Ministry are much disposed not only to enter into them, but to concede every point which might be demanded by the French. That the French would attempt to negotiate no doubt can exist, nor is it the least problematical that it has ere this been attempted; but if the confidential letters which have been received by one of the most eminent Spanish houses in this metropolis, and written to boot by a person belonging to the Spanish Ministry, are entitled to the least confidence, we say without hesitation that the Spaniards will not concede

one jot, nor negotiate at all, until the invaders retire beyond the Pyrenees.

The following are extracts from French papers of the date of Tuesday morning—

(From the Moniteur of Monday.)

TELEGRAPHIC DESPATCH.

Madrid, May 28, 10 o'clock in the morning. Gen. Vallin came up with the revolutionary troops, who retired from Madrid to Talanna at 6 o'clock yesterday morning. They amounted to 2000 infantry and 500 cavalry. The enemy was vigorously attacked and put to flight, leaving many dead and wounded, besides 60 prisoners—among whom are a Lieutenant Colonel and 10 officers—15 wagons laden with baggage, provisions, as well as the military chest containing about 40,000 francs, have fallen into our hands.

LONDON June 2.

We have heard that at present there are in the port of London only, under lock and key, in the government warehouses 800,000 quarters of foreign wheat, which are ready to be delivered for home consumption as soon as the average price of English wheat shall reach 70s. the quarter. This quantity is sufficient for one year's consumption for the metropolis.

A steam Engine of 12 horse power, has been erected at Calcutta, for the purpose of watering the hot and dusty roads of that metropolis.—*Christian Observer for May.*

Extract of a letter to a gentleman in this city, dated Blakely, 14th June.

“The bottom lands on the Alabama river, are almost entirely under water from this place to Claiborne, and there will be but little corn or cotton raised on them this year.

The whole export of cotton from Mobile Bay this year, including what lay over of the old crop, will not amount to 50,000 bales. Cotton now sells at 11 cents, but there is very little in market, and hardly any in the country.

PHILADELPHIA, July 11.

A letter from Barbadoes states that fears were entertained in that island of an insurrection of the slaves.

In confirmation of this, we have the Barbadian of June 11th, containing a proclamation by the Governor, contradicting a report which had got abroad that the slaves might expect their freedom. The owners of the different plantations were requested to have this proclamation read to their negroes.

Accounts from Malta of the 29th of April, state that three Greek vessels have had a combat with some Algerine corsairs in the neighbourhood of their capital, that two of the latter were run aground, and that a frigate quitting the port to come to their aid was obliged to sheer off.

From the N. York Daily Advertiser of the 16th inst.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

The British ship Commerce, Capt. Ritchie, arrived yesterday afternoon, in 34 days from Greenock. This vessel brings news from Madrid to the 28th of May, from Paris to the 1st, and London to the evening of the 4th of June. The editors of the New-York Daily Advertiser were politely furnished by Capt. Ritchie, with a London paper of the 3d, and a file of Glasgow papers to the 7th of June, containing the above dates. The intelligence by this vessel is of an interesting character. We have made copious extracts, which embrace all the matters of interest brought by her.

The Duke of Angouleme addressed a Proclamation to the Spaniards on the 23d of May, dated head quarters Alcobendas, in which he informs them that the French nation was not at war with Spain, but that the French army came as auxiliaries to help her to restore her altars, to deliver her King, to re-establish justice, order and peace in her bosom. He informs them that “the moment has arrived for establishing in a solemn and stable manner the Regency which is to be intrusted with the Administration of the country, with the organization of a regular army, and with concerting with me the means of consummating our great work, the deliverance of your king.”

In the above document nothing is said of negotiations. A hundred head of oxen going to the armies in Spain, had fallen into the hands of the guerillas.

The Constitutionalists who were made prisoners by the French in the recent affair of Donadien in Catalonia, are said to have revolted, and were put to the sword.

The Pilote (French Journal) of June 1st says reports unfavourable to Morillo have been in circulation for several days. He is said to have joined the French. The Pilote puts no confidence in the rumour.

Intelligence from Bayonne of May 24th, says the Archbishop of Tarazona, Grand Inquisitor of Spain, has been invited to return to Madrid to resume his functions.

IMPORTANT NEWS.

GLASGOW, June 7.

The French papers received this morning inform us that the advanced guard of the French army marched from Madrid and attacked and defeated at Talavera a Constitutional force of 3,500 men, who fled from the field, leaving many killed and wounded and 60 prisoners, 12 crayons with provisions and their military chest, in the hands of the French.

Not a syllable is said about Abisbal's movements and intentions.

Toledo has been occupied by a royal force.

It appeared that Mina himself was with the division of his army that had taken the route to Cardona. On the morning of the 26th, with 4000 men he attacked Vich, but was repulsed with very considerable loss by the garrison. Mina is said to be among the wounded. The garrison of Hostalrich made a sally at the same time, but were beat back with loss. We hear nothing of Molitor's division. Nothing certain of negotiations.

Moncey is advancing to Barcelona. From his despatch of the 23d, it would appear that the affair of Hostalrich, if there has been a sortie at all, was of a trifling nature. It is curious that his despatch of the 28th takes no notice of his attack upon Vich on the morning of the 26th. Mina evidently intends to seek refuge in the mountainous country towards Arragon.

The French and Royalist force that entered Madrid amounted to 50,000 men—a large force, some say 30,000, others 10,000 men, have marched south for Seville, where Toreno's party have gained the complete ascendancy; and where, say advices of the 16th, in the *Journal des Debats*, events will rapidly develop themselves, which will astonish all Europe. The French papers assert that Andalusia and Ethamadura have declared against the present Cortes.

Gen. Bordessoul marches upon Andalusia, and Gen. Vallin upon Badajoz.

From the Journal des Debats, June 1.

We have received from Seville a letter, dated May 16, which contains the following curious details of the passing events in that town.

The Exaltados are decidedly vanquished and the party of Tereno have gained the ascendancy. Calatrava is no longer Minister of the Interior to which office he had been nominated, but is now Minister of Justice. Zamudio is appointed to the Finances; he is quite devoted to Count Torreno. They are hesitating between Perez de Castro and Pandro for the Foreign Department. Pandro was the last Secretary of Embassy at Paris. Zareo del Valie is spoken of as Minister of War; his nomination will be the ruin of the party of Mina.

The general opinion is, that this Ministry entertain the same opinions as Abisbal, and that we shall soon have proof of it.

Madrid, May 26—9 o'clock in the morning.

The Duke of Angouleme to the President of the Council of Ministers.

A Regency during the captivity of the King has just been nominated. It is composed of the Duke del Infantado President, the Duke de Montemar, Baron d'Exoles, the Bishop of Osma, and M. Calderon.

There is nothing new here—all is perfectly quiet.

The plates and rafters of the new Baptist Church in this city, were raised a few days since, without accident to any person. This church is built of stone, and when finished, will be a very neat and commodious house. We hope the friends of this society abroad will aid in erecting this house, so much wanted by a worthy part of the community, who are unable to sustain the whole expense.—*Col. Reg.*

FOR SALE AT THIS OFFICE,

A PARTICULAR RELATION

OF THE

AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION

TO THE

BURMAN EMPIRE.

In a series of Letters, addressed to Joseph Butterworth, Esq. M. P. London.

BY ANN H. JUDSON.

The above work is also for sale by C. M. DOOLITTLE, at the office of N. & S. S. Jocelyn, N. Haven, where may also be had, Winchell's Arrangement of Watts' Psalms and Hymns, which is much approved by those who have made use of it.

ATNA INSURANCE COMPANY

WILL receive proposals for Insurance against loss or damage by fire, every day in the week (except Sunday) at their office in Morgan's Exchange Coffee-house, State Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

DANIEL ST. JOHN, Esq. of said Hartford, is appointed Surveyor. His acts in that capacity will be recognized as the acts of the Company.

*THOMAS K. BRACE, President.**ISAAC PERKINS, Secretary.*

Hartford, Feb. 16, 1822.

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PRINTING.

PAMPHLETS, HANDBILLS, CARDS, &c.
Printed at the office of the Christian Secretary.